

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

English is a foreign language in Indonesia and it is taught at Elementary school, junior and senior high schools as a compulsory subject. In order to gain such a goal, learners must familiarize themselves with language skills namely: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. The writer focuses on the reading skills. Reading is the important skill in learning a language as the other language skills are.

We recognize some of reading text namely: procedure text, recount text, and narrative text, descriptive text, news item, report text, analytical exposition text and spoof text. One of the texts that the writer intends to discuss here is narrative text. As teacher to be, we have to create learning situations in such a way that it makes the learning really takes place. With this principle in mind, the writer sees that reading narrative text is very important. Students can develop their language element, such as vocabulary and grammar. Endeed, this will very much depend on the way teacher provides simple narrative stories in the class.

In connection with this, narrative text is recommended for use as instructional materials. By retelling narrative stories, learners are able to gain and acquire some important things that are valuable in their imagination, such as (a) the capacity to grasp the meaning and message of the story, (b) should be the relaxed whenever the story is funny and memorable, (c) should be aware to learn more, (d) should enrich one's mind in relation to content, vocabulary and structure, to have an interest in learning the language. On the writer's opinion, narrative text presents a set of

information through a story in which information happened in the past and makes use the simple past tense.

In teaching and learning process, teachers provide the simple narrative stories to get the students attention and develop their learning skills. Besides, students are more interested in joining the class, by using the narrative stories. It is because most of narrative texts are used to entertain the readers or listeners. The learner should also be led to English through narrative stories.

Based on the statement as described above, the writer would like to propose the following topic: **“A STUDY ON THE ABILITY TO COMPREHEND NARRATIVE TEXT OF THE TENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMAN 4 KUPANG IN THE SCHOOL YEAR 2014/2015”**

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

In this study the writer tries to seek and answer the following questions:

1. Are the first grade students of SMAN 4 Kupang able to understand the narrative text they have read?
2. What is the ability level of the tenth grade students of SMAN 4 Kupang in understanding in reading narrative text?

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Based on the questions in the statement of the problem, objective of the study:

1. To find out whether or not the first grade students of SMAN 4 Kupang able to understand by answering the question of reading narrative text.

2. To know their level of understanding a narrative reading text.

#### **1.4 The Significance of the Study**

This study will be a concrete contribution in field, both for the teacher and students researched at the school in learning process of English as a whole by applying learning of English through narrative text:

1. For the Writer

This study is meant to increase the writer's knowledge about reading narrative text and to know the problem faced by students in reading narrative text.

2. For the English Teacher

This study is meant to provide the English teacher at researched school about the students' ability in reading narrative text.

3. For the Students

The materials are designed to (1) help them develop their interest to study and learning English seriously at the first state of learning (2) encourage them to learning English through narrative texts for pleasure and relaxation (3) have more opportunities to read (4) acquire new vocabulary encountered in the stories (5) help them develop their imagination into self-realization.

#### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

This study is intended to investigate the ability level of the tenth grade students of SMAN 4 Kupang on reading. There are many narrative texts such as: The Clever Parrot, Cinderella, Jaka

Tarub, Pure River, The Lamb and The Wolf, ect. But the writer only focuses on the story of Pure River and The Clever Parrot.

Based on the narrative texts, the writer is really sure that they seem very suitable and teachable for a successful teaching and learning process in reading narrative text to the tenth grade students of Senior High School beginners.

## **1.6 Definition of Terms**

### **1. Ability**

Ability is a potential capacity or power to do something physically or mentally (Hornby in sebian, 1982:2). Ability in this study is ability of the Tenth Grade Students of SMAN 4 Kupang in the school year 2013/2014 to comprehend narrative text.

### **2. Reading**

Reading is a complex of skills that the individual uses to derive meaning from the printed page ( Karlin, 1963:1). In this study reading means the main written or printed part of a book.

### **3. Comprehension**

Richard et al (1985: 54 ). It is a process by which a person to understand of the written or spoken language. In this study comprehension is a process by which The Tenth Grade Students of SMAN 4 Kupang to understand reading narrative text they have read.

### **4. Reading Comprehension**

It is the process of using syntactic and rhetorical information found in printed task to reconstruct in the readers mind, using the knowledge of the words, she/he posses plus appropriate cognitive skill and reasoning ability, a hypothesis or personal explanations which

may account for the intended message that existed in the writer's mind as the printed text contains (Devine 1986:126). Reading comprehension in this study means the ability of the Tenth Grade Students of SMAN 4 Kupang in the school year 2014/2015 to understand reading narrative text.

#### 5. Narrative text

Narrative text is the story text which are orally retold and handed down from one generation to the next. They are Anonymous, timeless, and placeless stories circulated and endowed among a group of people. In this study, the writer will focus on the ability to comprehend narrative text.

#### 6. SMAN 4 Kupang

SMAN 4 Kupang is a state senior high school located at Jl. Adisucipto, Oesapa-Kupang. It is one of the internasional standard schools.